Empowering each learner to thrive in a diverse and changing world.

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT
In a year unlike any other, the Unit 4 community was quick to respond to the challenges and uncertainties created by the coronavirus pandemic. Meanwhile, faculty also transformed their curriculum to meet the new demands of online learning. Students showed resiliency as they adjusted to these new virtual learning spaces and staff too found new ways to connect with one another while working from home.
As many know, I am completing my 30th and final year in Champaign Unit 4 Schools. It has been a privilege to serve all my administrative years in the District. From serving as an elementary principal at Dr. Howard to my final year as Superintendent, it has been a journey like no other. When asked what I will miss most, it would be the people of Unit #4 who serve our students and families every day.

I want to take a moment and thank Unit 4 staff for all you have done this past year. The pandemic tested our will, ingenuity, perseverance, creativity and so much more, but your commitment to service has been second to none. I have been honored to work alongside some of the best in the profession. As I close my 37th and final year, I wish you some restful moments to catch your breath.

Most of you are seeing this Annual Report electronically. It is filled with highlights, project updates, and student and staff achievements. Please refer to the Table of Contents for more information. If you would like a print copy of the report, please email our Communications Department (comms@u4sd.org) and we will be happy to mail one. You can also call the Administration Center at 217-351-3800 to request a print copy. If you have a friend or family member who relies on print communication, please let the District know so we can provide a print copy to them.

Let me close by expressing heartfelt thanks to Unit 4 students, families and the greater Champaign-Urbana community for your unwavering support of the District this past school year. The response of the community was incredible as individuals, companies and community organizations stepped forward to help Unit 4 and Urbana District #116 during a time of great need.

With gratitude,

Dr. Susan Zola
Superintendent
Greetings Champaign Unit 4 Families and Patrons,

It was an honor to be named Superintendent of Champaign Unit 4 Schools earlier this year. Since that time, I have enjoyed meeting with many of you in preparation to transition into this role. Everyone has been so welcoming since my husband and I moved here. We look forward to being a part of the Champaign area community.

My name plate is now hung and the office door is wide open! It is my goal to serve our children with humility and a fierceness to ensure that Unit 4 shines as a District that is known for excellence. The Strategic Plan will serve as my guide and I will always lead from the place of what’s best for our children.

This Annual Report is a reflection of the resilience that students, families and staff showed when they faced a school year filled with pandemic-related obstacles. Learning still happened. Meals were distributed. Awards were won. Sports were played. Community partners assisted. Unit 4 Schools persevered!

I am incredibly excited about the future of Unit 4 Schools. I know I can count on you on this journey as we ensure high quality, equitable educational experiences for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shelia Boozer
Superintendent (as of July 1, 2021)
boozersh@u4sd.org
UNIT 4 HIGHLIGHTS

NEW SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT
In January, the Unit 4 Board of Education selected Dr. Shelia Boozer as Superintendent following the retirement of Dr. Susan Zola in June. Dr. Boozer joined Unit 4 after serving as Director of Teaching & Learning and Technology in Springfield District 186.

COVID VACCINES
Unit 4 offered COVID vaccines to staff in February and in May. Students 12 and older were also provided an opportunity to receive vaccines.

WARM A KID
Community donations to the district’s Warm-A-Kid program exceeded $1,900 and provided 292 winter coats to students during 2020-21.

MEAL BOX DISTRIBUTION
The District assembled and distributed meal boxes to Unit 4 families at Thanksgiving and during winter break.

488 THANKSGIVING MEAL BOXES
474 WINTER HOLIDAY MEAL BOXES
664,626 OVERALL MEAL BOXES DURING 2020-21
In partnership with the United Way of Champaign County, Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, and the Rotary Responds Fund, Champaign Unit 4 Schools were among 5,000 countywide K-5 students gifted school supplies in August.

**Community Partners Provide School Supplies**

**Burlington Gift to Unit 4**
Burlington and AdoptAClassroom.org presented a $5,000 check toward school supplies to Booker T. Washington STEM Academy in celebration of the opening of its new Champaign store in May.

**Volunteering in Unit 4**
A total of 1,246 people volunteered 47,571 hours in Unit 4 schools, an average of 38 hours per person, during the 2020-21 school year. The estimated monetary equivalent of that volunteer time (based on the Independent Sector value of a volunteer hour, $29.37, in Illinois in 2020) was nearly $1.4 million.

**Tree Planting Partnership**
Students from the Early Act Club at Garden Hills Math and Engineering Leadership Academy planted trees in honor of Arbor Day. The club, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Champaign, teamed with the Champaign Park District for planting.
Unit 4 students at elementary and middle schools were able to return to in-person learning in January 2021 as part of a hybrid learning schedule.
**CHOICE REGISTRATION**

Schools of Choice held a registration tour, making stops at multiple sites to make kindergarten registration more convenient for district families.

**INTERNET SERVICE AT SHADOWWOOD**

In August, the City of Champaign installed new equipment to provide wireless Internet connectivity to Champaign Unit 4 students living in the Shadowwood neighborhood. The equipment was fully operational to support online learning by the start of the fall semester and fully funded through a $20,000 grant from the UC2B Community Benefit Fund.

**GOVERNOR AT CECC**

Governor J.B Pritzker visited Champaign Early Childhood Center in April to announce funding for pandemic recovery.

**SENSORY PATH**

A generous donation from the Champaign West Rotary provided five schools in Unit 4 with sensory paths. Members of the District’s Occupational Therapy Department completed paths at Stratton Academy of the Arts, Garden Hills Academy and Booker T. Washington STEM Academy in April. Future paths will be installed at Champaign Early Childhood Center and the renovated International Prep Academy.

**BRILLIANT. BOLD. BEAUTIFUL. CAMPAIGN**

Unit 4 and the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) partnered together as part of Unit 4’s “Brilliant. Bold. Beautiful.” campaign. The narrative behind the campaign began in 2018 to address negative stereotypes and beliefs about girls of color.
GOLDEN APPLE WINNER
Dominique McCotter (3rd from right), a kindergarten teacher at Dr. Howard Elementary School, was one of 10 recipients of the prestigious Illinois Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

MLK Living the Dream Scholarships
Centennial: Benidel Bakubile-Ntumba, Ayan Harris, Alysia Pelmore, Paige White, Brandon Bui (Alternate)
Central: Nathaniel Allen (Herb Stevens Memorial Award for Overcoming Adversity), Malynn Daly, Kyleah Rogers (Willie Summerville Memorial Award for Excellence in the Arts)
National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists
Centennial: Matthew Hege, Sarah Park, Michelle Stilger
*denotes also named finalist

MANN-HANKEL TEACHING AWARD
Franklin’s Joseph Pickell was presented with the inaugural Mann-Hankel Teaching Excellence Award from the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation.

CLASS 1A BOYS’ TENNIS SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP
Centennial freshman Max Braun won a Class 1A boys’ tennis state title in singles, becoming the first Centennial player in school history to accomplish the feat.

STAFF HONORS
Golden Apple Award
Dominique McCotter, Dr. Howard Elementary
CU Schools Foundation Mann-Hankel Teaching Excellence Award Joseph Pickell, Franklin
Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) Outstanding Secondary School Teacher Jay Hooper, Centennial
Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA) Early Professional Educator of the Year Carol-Lynn Comparetto, Central
WILL Education 2021 Early Childhood Champion Professional of the Year Kate Carlson, Champaign Early Childhood Center

IASA AWARD TO DR. ZOLA
The Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) selected Champaign Unit 4 Superintendent Dr. Susan Zola as the 2021 Superintendent of Distinction for the IASA Illini Region, the five-county area encompassing east central Illinois.
Six school projects were active during the 2020-21 fiscal year with two completed in time for the academic year and another breaking ground by year’s end. The renovation of South Side Elementary and the rebuild of Dr. Howard Elementary opened during the fall and provided fresh new buildings for students when they returned to the classroom.

South Side’s $12.4 million expansion and renovation included a building addition and modernized classrooms and common spaces.

The Dr. Howard project was a $17.3 million complete rebuild that included demolishing the existing structure and constructing a new school on the same site.
Significant changes are developing at Edison Middle School and the two high schools (Centennial and Central). Construction work continues at each site while also reaching milestones with new and improved sections of the buildings. The new Edison addition includes gym, locker rooms, concessions and offices. Renovations to the library and all classrooms are highlights of the interior work. Significant building exterior and site work, including new windows, exterior stairways, and a parking lot, are also part of the $26.9 million project slated for Summer 2021 completion.
The $105 million Central project moved into the second half of its timeline. Work during the 2020-21 school year included further progress on the new academic/theater/band addition.

Summer interior renovation work began at the conclusion of the school year. Full completion is anticipated in Summer 2022. Design development for Central’s North Fields, a complex to house new softball and soccer/marching band facilities, will continue through the fall.
The rebuilding and expansion will bring modernized classrooms, common spaces, and infrastructure. The building is being designed to allow for a potential to allow for K-8 use in the future.

Following design approval over the winter, the $24.3 million International Prep Academy broke ground in April 2021.

Currently in the design phase, the Central North Fields softball and soccer/marching band project is targeting design completion for Fall 2021 and start of construction in Spring 2022.
The school’s new gymnasium was named after legendary coach Coleman Carrodine. Final stages of the $76.4 million project at Centennial are scheduled to be completed during the summer, including renovated first floor classrooms for use during the 2021-22 school year.
The District capped the 2020-21 school year with a series of open houses at Centennial, Central, Dr. Howard and South Side. Students and community members were able to see inside the buildings and get a first-hand look at the modern updates.

Be sure to visit the Building Projects page at www.champainschools.org for continued project updates.
FINANCES

EXPENSES AND REVENUE IN FY2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Benefits</td>
<td>$24,871,975</td>
<td>$2,553,763</td>
<td>$14,202,682</td>
<td>$31,628,410</td>
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<td>Capital Outlay</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>$7,252,279</td>
<td>$7,852,279</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>$22,413,266</td>
<td>$22,413,266</td>
<td>$155,249,758</td>
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<td>Purchased Svcs.</td>
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<td>$22,932,537</td>
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<td>Non-Capitalized Equip.</td>
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<td>$8,818</td>
<td>$8,818</td>
<td>$26,454,528</td>
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$335,153,739 100%

TOTAL EXPENSES AND REVENUE IN FY2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>$127,792,545 77.7%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$22,553,763 13.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$14,202,682 8.6%</td>
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*$164,548,990 100%

*Includes Referendum Construction Projects and Debt Service

TOTAL SPENDING PER STUDENT (ISBE REPORT CARD FY2020)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Spending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champaign Early Childhood Center Preschool</td>
<td>$21,701.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bottenfield Elementary School</td>
<td>$11,816.71</td>
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<td>Carrie Busey Elementary School</td>
<td>$11,945.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Howard Elementary School</td>
<td>$13,182.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Hills Elementary School</td>
<td>$15,097.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Prep Academy</td>
<td>$12,590.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenwood Elementary School</td>
<td>$13,130.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robeson Elementary School</td>
<td>$11,515.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Side Elementary School</td>
<td>$12,070.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stratton Elementary School</td>
<td>$13,464.43</td>
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</table>

Barkstall Elementary School                $12,125.67|
Washington Elementary School               $11,820.97|
Westview Elementary School                 $11,983.78|
Edison Middle School                       $11,956.19|
Franklin Middle School                     $13,231.98|
Jefferson Middle School                    $11,796.40|
Centennial High School                     $13,714.03|
Central High School                        $13,306.61|
Novak Academy                              $23,417.20|
UNIT 4 GRADE BY GRADE ENROLLMENT

The total enrollment includes all students assigned to the District as well as private servicing facilities and students who receive special education services until the age of 21 (Denoted as GO, G1, G2, G3, and G4).

Enrollment counts for Champaign Unit 4 as of October 1, 2020 for Pre Kindergarten through grade twelve indicate a total student count of 10,154 for the 2020-2021 school year.

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

- **Black**: 35.8%
- **White**: 33.8%
- **Hispanic**: 13%
- **Asian**: 8.8%
- **Two or More Races**: 8.4%
- **American Indian**: 0.2%
- **Low Income**: 55%
- **With IEPs**: 13%
- **English Learners**: 12.5%
- **Homeless**: 2%

GRANT AWARDS

From individual donations to competitive grants, Unit 4 aggressively pursues funding opportunities that support student learning, staff development and District operations. Just a few key awards in 2020-2021:

- **City of Champaign - Operation Hope**: $48,000
- **ISBE - Advanced Placement Grant**: $50,000
- **ISBE - Truant Alternative and Optional Education Grant**: $154,072
- **United Way - Operation Hope**: $34,500
- **US Dept of Education - Magnet Grant**: $3,290,440
- **ISBE - After School Instruction**: $17,778

DEMOGRAPHICS

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-K</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>255</td>
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<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>731</td>
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<td>First Grade</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Grade</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>847</td>
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<td>Third Grade</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>800</td>
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<td>Fourth Grade</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>780</td>
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<td>766</td>
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<td>Fifth Grade</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>779</td>
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<td>Sixth Grade</td>
<td>722</td>
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<td>784</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>770</td>
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<td>705</td>
<td>735</td>
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<td>780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eighth Grade</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ninth Grade</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenth Grade</td>
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<td>714</td>
<td>666</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eleventh Grade</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>643</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelfth Grade</td>
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<td>570</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>584</td>
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<td>G0, G1, G2, G3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>District Total</td>
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<td>10,072</td>
<td>10,173</td>
<td>10,347</td>
<td>10,154</td>
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</table>
This Champaign Unit 4 School District 2020-2021 Annual Report is dedicated to Dr. Susan Zola. She is retiring from Unit 4 after 30 years of devoted service to our school system.

Dr. Zola began her career as a first-grade teacher in a neighboring district. In 1990, she joined Champaign Unit 4 Schools as the Principal of Dr. Howard Elementary School. She later served as the Director of Title I/Literacy, Director of Choice, Principal of Jefferson Middle School, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Assistant Superintendent for Achievement, Curriculum and Instruction. In 2016, Dr. Zola was appointed as Superintendent.

Thank you, Dr. Zola, for your leadership and service to our students and families.
**Elementary Schools**
- **Champaign Early Childhood Center (Pre-K)** – 809 N. Neil – 351-3881
- **Barkstall** – 2201 Hallbeck – 373-5580
- **Bottenfield** – 1801 S. Prospect – 351-3807
- **Booker T. Washington** – 606 E. Grove – 351-3901
- **Carrie Busey** – 304 Prairie Rose Ln., Savoy – 351-3811
- **Dr. Howard** – 110 N. James – 351-3866
- **Garden Hills** – 2001 Garden Hills – 351-3872
- **International Prep Academy** – 1605 W. Kirby – 351-3995
- **Kenwood** – 1001 Stratford – 351-3815
- **Robeson** – 2501 Southmoor – 351-3884
- **South Side** – 715 S. New Street – 351-3890
- **Stratton** – 902 N. Randolph – 373-7330
- **Westview** – 703 S. Russell – 351-3905

**Middle Schools**
- **Edison** – 306 W. Green – 351-3771
- **Franklin** – 817 N. Harris – 351-3819
- **Jefferson** – 1115 S. Crescent – 351-3790

**High Schools**
- **Centennial** – 913 S. Crescent – 351-3951
- **Central** – 610 W. University – 351-3911
- **Novak Academy** – 815 N. Randolph – 352-4328

**District**
- **Unit 4 Administrative Center** – 502 W. Windsor Rd. – 351-3800
- **Center for Family and Community Engagement at the Mellon Administrative Center** – 703 S. New – 351-3701
- **Distribution Center** – 1301 N. Hagan – 351-3993
CHAMPAIGN UNIT 4 SCHOOLS
502 W. Windsor Road
Champaign, Illinois 61820
www.champaignschools.org

Residential Postal Customer

Connect with your public schools!

Find us Online

See news, events, enrollment details and more at champaignschools.org

Keep up with our building projects at referendumprojects.champaignschools.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @unit4schools

Attend a Board Meeting

Learn about topics that affect students, staff and the community. Champaign Unit 4 School District Board of Education Regular Meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the Second Monday of Each Month at the E.H. Mellon Administrative Center, 703 South New Street, Champaign, Illinois.